

Literacy evangelism a one on one technique

By Jennifer Anderson

DAVAO CITY, Philippines (BP)—Traveling through the rural and mountain regions of the Philippines, Paul Johnson hears a distinct cry—a plea to learn to read.

Since the mid-70s, Johnson, a Southern Baptist missionary, has attempted to turn despair into hope through teaching others to read and write. And he believes the simple act of reading is an open door to the gospel. He calls his ministry literacy evangelism.

In an age which depends so heavily on the printed word, it's difficult to realize nearly half the adult population of the world cannot read or write. For Johnson, however, this fact is a driving force to find teaching methods which draw non-readers into the literate circle.

The Mississippi native has concentrated his literacy work in the major languages of Cebuano and Ilonggo, developing a unique teaching procedure. "One of the secrets to the program is it is on a one-to-one basis, not a classroom approach," says the 47-year-old missionary. "The one-to-one approach is not only the best educational technique, but it's also the most effective evangelistic technique."

Johnson conducts training seminars for literate people who learn the one-on-one method. Once they are trained they can teach their friends and neighbors to read.

Many illiterate and non-Christian adults would not respond to a direct witness from another Christian, says Johnson.

"But (if) you offer to help them improve themselves educationally and improve their situation in life, very few would turn down an offer like that. While the friend teaches his unbelieving neighbor to read, he is able to witness to him and tell him, day by day, about Christ."

Johnson's major responsibilities are to direct a Baptist conference center on Mindanao and consult with the Mindanao Convention of Southern Baptist churches. His literacy work comes purely from personal interest in linguistics.

Johnson collaborates on much of his program with an organization called Literacy and Evangelism International, a non-denominational service ministry based in Tulsa.

In his work, Johnson has developed Bible content primers with evangelistic suggestions in the teacher's guide concerning how to use the lessons as witnessing tools for Christ.

"The program has two target groups," explained Johnson. "The first is believers who are members of Baptist churches, who have not learned to read. The idea is they cannot grow spiritually as they should unless they can read the Bible themselves. Secondly, are lost adults who don't know how to read."

Lessons are an hour every day, five days a week for two months. Johnson guarantees if each step is followed, the student will be able to read in two months. A follow-up series of 19 lessons has simple Bible stories using the literacy technique called the picture-word-syllable method.

Johnson sees literacy evangelism as aiding the Philippine Baptist convention in achieving its goal of 1,085 churches by 1985 on Mindanao and the Visayan Islands. "We feel that literacy evangelism can be a key method in reaching this goal," he says.

Many of the urban areas of the Philippines have a literacy rate of 80 to 85 percent, but Johnson works largely with tribal minority groups living in the mountainous areas. Those places "not only have people who cannot read and write, but also have a group very responsive to the gospel. It's probably the most responsive of all the groups in the Philippines."

Literacy evangelism also goes inside Philippine prison walls. Johnson has conducted several literacy training classes in the maximum security area at the massive New Bilibid Prison near Manila. Previous literacy programs have failed primarily because of conventional teaching methods. But the one-to-one approach designed for adults has succeeded. Johnson adds "the source of the program rests upon concerned Christian inmates in the prison itself."

Johnson is obviously challenged by literacy evangelism. "I feel we (Southern Baptists) are seeing such things as literacy evangelism as not just a social ministry, but as evidence of our concern for the whole man, the whole person."

He believes literacy evangelism is a way to show concern and interest in uplifting people while opening doors to witness. "This is why it's not just called a literacy program. It's a literacy evangelism program. We believe the evangelism is central in all we do."

(Jennifer Anderson is a free-lance writer in Richmond, Va.)

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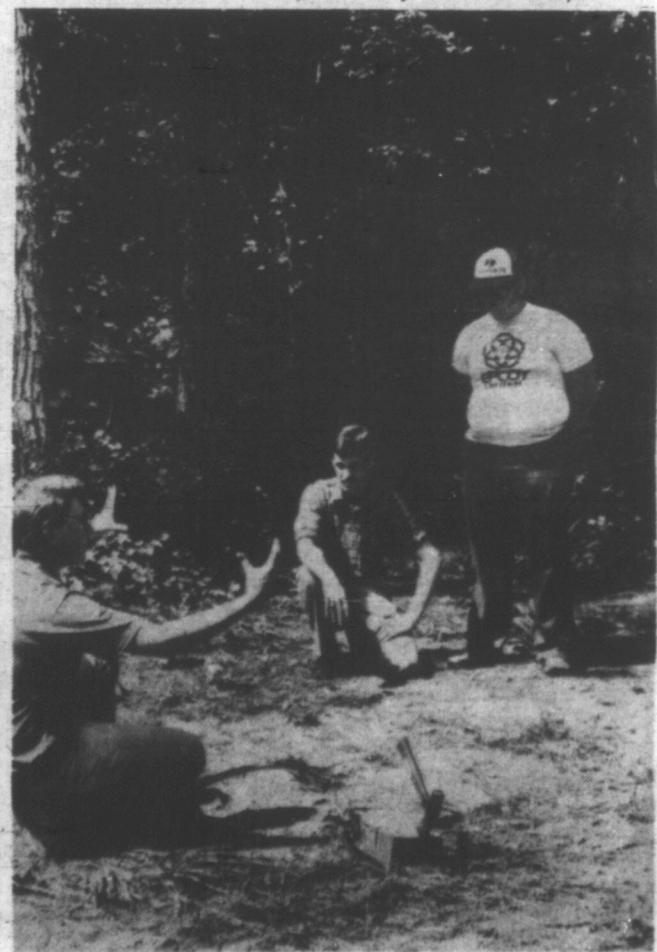
Plying their (camp) craft

This past weekend, a group of Royal Ambassador leaders worked on their basic adult campcraft patches at Central Hills Baptist Retreat near Kosciusko. Instructors were Wayne Spencer, pastor of Sontag Church, near Monticello, and Billy Gaddis, a student at Mississippi College. Spencer is a

certified campcraft instructor and Gaddis will be campcraft and canoe instructor during RA camp this summer. At top left, Spencer, kneeling, explains the use of a tent fly and ways to secure it without stakes. Below left, Gaddis shows how to make a camp fire using a flint. With Gaddis are Eric Moore of

Cross Roads Church, in Pelahatchie; and David Crews, of First Church, Coldwater. Below right, Larry Joblin peeks at the knot tying technique of Charles Patrick. Both are members of Fairview Church, Columbus. Jim Didlake of the Brotherhood Department is RA consultant for Mississippi.

(Photos by Tim Nicholas)



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Editorials..... by don mcgregor

Home and association weeks

Two observations of Southern Baptists deserve special mention and the recommendation that churches and individuals give particular attention to these observations in programs, emphases, and awareness.

They are Christian Home Week, which began with Mother's Day this past Sunday, and Associational Emphasis Week, which begins Sunday.

The observation of Christian Home Week calls attention to an obvious need. The Christian home in recent years has seemed to be a declining factor in a nation's fabric, and the need for the stabilization that would be provided by Christian influence has been apparent. The old saying which points out that sooner or later we are going to have to pay the piper is certainly true. If the citizens of our nation keep chasing after life styles

that are no better than amoral in their design, the piper's price is going to be high indeed. And we will not like the coin with which it has to be paid.

This is not to say, of course, that the home has to be populated by Christians to be moral. The morality that should be a part of the influence of any home, however, would be based on Judeo-Christian principles. And it is the home in which the values of morality are taught that will be the backbone of our nation. Those values are needed desperately. And while this week marks the observation of Christian Home Week among Southern Baptists, it is an emphasis that must be a part of our framework the year around.

Associational Emphasis Week calls attention to an effort that is basic among Southern Baptists, and that is missions. The association is

the first line of missions effort beyond the local church. It is churches banding together to provide a witness in their locality in a manner that is of greater value than each church would be able to carry on by itself.

Each of our phases of missions emphasis has its need and its function. The efforts of state missions, home missions, and foreign missions are necessary if we are going to witness to the world. Even so are the efforts of associational missions. This is the organization that is closest to the local scene where the need is. This is the organization that can have the needed workers on the scene first. This is the organization that can best evaluate the situation.

Our missions work is an interdependent chain, and the association is a vital link in it.

Stay and witness

Following the lead of what has become known as the inerrantist faction in Southern Baptist ranks, other groups have become more vocal and aggressive in their approach to situations that Southern Baptists are facing. For instance, sometime back a group in Virginia that would claim allegiance with the inerrantist group, formed a conservative association in Virginia. It has no geographical boundaries but welcomes any church which feels a theological kinship and desires to cast its lot with the group.

More recently a group of pastors from the other side of the spectrum have announced an alternate program to the SBC Pastors' Conference.

The first thing that has to be considered in both cases is that those who will be participating in each of these

new ventures have every right to do what they are doing. Whether or not what they will be attempting will prove to be worthwhile is another matter. Their right to take the actions that they have taken, however, goes without saying. There is nothing to stop them.

In the case of the conservative association, one cannot help but wonder just what will be accomplished. As the theory of associational work seems to be understood, it is a group of churches in an area banding together to carry out desired work in that area that the churches could not do as well in separate actions. It is difficult to see how a statewide group could do this in any way that was not already a reality before the conservative association was formed. Surely the statewide association could not do as well in a local situation as could the local association that was already in action. And though the new association is a statewide grouping, it surely must recognize that it will not be able to carry out projects and needed programs all over the state with the ability of the state convention organization that was already at work.

Perhaps the new association was formed simply for the purpose of fellowship among pastors of like theological concepts. That would be fine except that it is more divisive than constructive. It would seem that

much more could be accomplished for their cause by staying in their regular local associations and providing a witness of their convictions.

And the same could be said for the new pastors' forum that is planned for Kansas City immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention. Again there is no question but that the group has every right to do what they have planned to do. Surely there is nothing to stop any group of people from meeting anytime they want to and supporting whatever cause they desire as long as it is not subversive to our national interests.

It is recognized, of course, that the group which has organized the pastors' forum feels that their interests have been swept aside by those who are now in charge of the regular pastors' conference operation. So they have formed another conference, but that is tantamount to surrender. If the group feels that present pastors' conference officialdom has concepts contrary to their own, the best way to give up their own viewpoint is to move out.

And again, such a move is more divisive than constructive. If we begin to have an inerrantist pastors' conference and a moderates' pastors' conference, both of the conferences will serve as pre-convention rallies for their own viewpoints; and convention relations could go further downhill fast.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- May 21 Better Biblical Preaching and Worship Conference; Covington-Jeff Davis Associational Office; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (CAPM)
- May 21-27 Associational Emphasis Week (HMB Emphasis)
- May 22 Better Biblical Preaching and Worship Conference; Emmanuel BC, Greenwood; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (CAPM)
- May 23 Better Biblical Preaching and Worship Conference; E. Heights BC, Tupelo 9 a.m.-4 p.m. (CAPM)
- May 25-26 Baptist Women Retreat; Camp Garaywa; 2:30 p.m., 25th-2:30 p.m. 26th (WMU)

Enduring Family Foundation



Guest opinion . . .

Associational relationships

By W. Levon Moore

The Baptist association exists as a separate denominational entity. However, it exists because of and through its relationships.

Connection

Unlike the state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention, which are composed of messengers from the cooperating churches, the association is made up of cooperating churches. The churches elect messengers to the annual meeting; but, according to the constitutional stipulation of most associations, the body is composed of "cooperating Baptist churches."

The association is related to the state convention and the Southern Baptist Convention through a voluntary and unofficial system of cooperative personnel, financial plans, programs, and service agencies. The association is related to the churches in an organized structure of fellowship and cooperative ministry. The association in its mission outreach is the totality of the ministry of cooperating churches in a given area, voluntarily organized to strengthen Christian fellowship, ministry, and witnessing.

Control

Through elected messengers to the annual meeting, and through representation on the associational executive board by the pastor and one elected board member, the local church is organizationally related to the association. Through this organizational relationship the churches are able to exercise a measure of control over policies and programs of the association. Because of its right to admit and to withdraw fellowship from individual churches, the association exercises a measure of control over the churches. All associa-

tional officers and leaders must come from the local churches. The strength of associational ministries is determined largely by the measure of dedication and commitment in the lives of these leaders.

Cooperation

The director of missions is an employee of the association, and as such is related to each church within the association. His effectiveness depends, in part, upon his degree of commitment, his personality, his educational capabilities, his leadership ability, and his willingness to share with the constituency of the association. His effectiveness depends largely, however, upon his acceptance by pastors and church leaders and their perception of him as a partner in denominational and church leadership.

As the association is given a high priority in the thinking of the pastor and other church leaders, the director of missions becomes an ally, a catalyst, and a helper to enhance all phases of local church work.

Commission

Christ commissioned his churches to "go into all the world" and to "preach the gospel to every creature." This cannot be done by one church alone. It can be done only as churches join together in a united effort. Basically, associational relationships are church relationships with other churches in building a stronger and more effective missionary outreach through the association. This responsibility will be demonstrated, not by churches in isolation, but by churches in viable associational relationships with sister churches.

W. Levon Moore is director of missions in Attala Association.

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Canadian conference endorses study report

By Carol Rathbun

EDMONTON, Alberta (BP) — Expressing appreciation to those who sought seating for Canadian Southern Baptists in the Southern Baptist Convention, messengers to the 1984 Canadian Conference May 1-3 formally endorsed the SBC Canada Study Committee Report to be presented to the June SBC meeting in Kansas City, Mo.

Although the report of the SBC study committee outlines a strategy of increased involvement of the SBC and Canada, it did not recommend the seating of Canadian messengers.

A record number of Canadian pastors and laypersons were on hand. The 88 registered messengers voted unanimously on the following formal response to the SBC report:

"We, the messengers to the 1984 annual meeting of the Canadian Southern Baptist Conference express our deepest appreciation to all who have labored on our behalf in seeking the seating of Canadian Southern Baptists at the Southern Baptist Convention and we also express appreciation to the Southern Baptist Convention as a whole for its efforts and desires to promote the evangelization of Canada.

"Without prejudice to the later possibility of our being seated, we have complete confidence in the conclusion reached by the SBC Canada Study Committee and we do in this meeting endorse the SBC Canada Study Committee's recommendation and humbly solicit the continued support of all our friends in our effort to reach all of Canada for Christ."

In the original motion made by Jim Wallace, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Calgary, Alberta, no reference was made to the future possibility of being seated in the SBC but an amendment by Allen Schmidt, coordinator for Southern Baptist churches in Canada, was approved to add the phrase "without prejudice to the later possibility of being seated."

Schmidt said he had complete confidence in the SBC study committee but, "we still want to let everyone know we would be open to be seated at a later date if that was the desire of Canadian Southern Baptists and the SBC."

It was pointed out the original motion would perhaps send out a message confusing to those who initiated the seating issue. Henry Blackaby, director of missions for the Capilano Baptist Association in Western British Columbia said, "I appreciate the way the motion was stated, but to say we completely endorse this report says we are happy about not being seated. I think that would send a message back to our supporters

that would be difficult to explain."

The more than 200 Canadians attending were able to question reports on the recommendation brought by SBC representative Harold C. Bennett, Fred Roach, and R. Keith Parks.

Bennett, executive secretary-treasurer of the Executive Committee, explained the selection process of the 21-member Canada Study Committee. Committee Chairman Roach, a layman from Dallas, outlined the activities of the committee and went through the report point by point.

Roach said the committee meetings were all spiritually oriented. "At every meeting we spent time in prayer. We had key devotional ideas and we did a lot of brainstorming. There was nobody, nobody that had any undue influence on that committee... no agency of the Southern Baptist Convention had any undue influence on the ultimate decision."

Roach said as the committee came to the point of drafting a position paper there was a divergence of direction evident, but, "I knew as a committee I did not want to be divisive at the Southern Baptist Convention. We don't need anything else that will divide us. We need to be pulled together under God's leadership."

At that point, Roach said he instructed Parks, Foreign Mission Board president, and William G. Tanner, Home Mission Board president, to write proposals each could approve of how they thought the goal of how to best evangelize Canada could be accomplished.

He reported, "The heads of these two mission agencies came together under God's leadership and came to a consensus as to how best to expand our work in Canada." The document, described as a miracle by those involved, was then reviewed and revised by the members of the study committee, he said, resulting in the final report.

Roach stressed that the committee's recommendation complemented the desires and the goals of the Canada Conference as expressed by its representatives that met with the committee and its own long-range planning report.

"The question gets down to can you accomplish more in helping to evangelize Canada by the adoption of this kind of program, or by adding the words 'and Canada' to the Southern Baptist Convention constitution," he said. "And that doesn't do anything except it might let 10 or 15 or 20 or 30 of you vote at the convention."

Roach said the fact seating wouldn't necessarily help evangelize

Canada was the basis of their decision. He added that there isn't anybody in the SBC who wouldn't want Canadians to be seated from the fellowship standpoint but that the committee felt seating wouldn't accomplish the goals of the group involved.

Parks said, "The thing that has been thrilling to me in the whole process has been the fact that throughout the process even if there was difference of opinion there was never a difference of spirit. There was a harmony, a genuine desire to do the best we could as individuals and as a group."

Parks said one of the most emotional questions that had been raised was why the Foreign Mission Board had not been actively involved in Canada up to this point. "It's a judgment call," he responded. "We may have made the wrong judgment in it. It was an honest effort to take the limited resources that Southern Baptists made available and try to apply them at point of greatest need as we understand it."

He explained that in the 1950s some decisions were made that Baptists had to live with "right or wrong, good or bad." Those decisions meant the Foreign Mission Board would direct its resources to areas where there was no evangelical witness.

He added, "We are in about half of the countries of the world. We could be criticized for not being in any of the other countries... it's a matter of choice; it's a matter of priorities. It is not that we are not interested in evangelizing Canada. It's not that we do not love the Canadians and some other things some people have perhaps assumed."

"Speaking for the Foreign Mission Board... I commit to you the best support we know how to give within the limitations we have placed on us, to be responsive and to assist every way we can to help in evangelization of this great nation," Parks said.

(Carol Rathbun is an interim editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness.)

1,000 new Christians

BELIZE CITY, Belize—About 1,000 people made commitments to Christ during a spring evangelistic crusade in this Central American nation, reported missionary Otis Brady. Men and boys made decisions at twice the rate of women and girls, a remarkable turnaround from previous patterns. A new mission church has been started in Belize City. More than 60 people are attending worship, many of them teen-agers.



Baptist Book Store manager Charles McGlocklin stands out front of Westland Plaza in Jackson where the store will be moving this summer.

Baptist Book Store moving by September

By Tim Nicholas

The Baptist Book Store in downtown Jackson will be moving to Westland Plaza Shopping Center in West Jackson by the first of September, according to store manager Charles McGlocklin.

Contracts have been signed by the Baptist Sunday School Board, which operates the 65 Baptist Book Stores across the nation, and the Westland Plaza management to lease the 14,200 square feet of space which was formerly the Furniture Distribution Warehouse.

The new store will have two entrances, one on Ellis Ave. and one on Robinson Road. Parking, unlike the downtown location, said McGlocklin, will be abundant.

The book store's new neighbors at Westland Plaza include McRae's, Jitney Jungle, Radio Shack Computer Center, Tillman Finance, and First National Bank.

"A lot of folks will wonder why we moved there rather than to Metrocenter or the new Northpark Mall. These areas start at leasing costs of \$15 per square foot. We would have not gotten the space we need for this," McGlocklin said the cost of leasing at Westland will run approximately \$4 per square foot, plus a small percentage more for going over certain gross sales.

The old location, at the corner of Amite and President Streets, was sold by the Sunday School Board to a private developer who earlier reported plans to convert the building to office space. Transactions and total sales had dropped tremendously at the old location in recent years.

The old sales floor is about 7,500 square feet with an equal amount of warehouse space in the basement. The new store will be all retail floor (Continued on page 4)

Executive Committee suggests method change

By Tim Nicholas

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board meeting in Jackson last week adopted actions concerning future growth of Central Hills Baptist Retreat and Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, and concerning the relationship of Mississippi Baptist Seminary to the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

The seminary action was to recommend to the full convention board, which will meet in August, "that the Mississippi Baptist Convention be requested to establish an orderly process of selecting the trustees of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary system from the membership of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board."

The seminary board consists of nine persons elected by the Mississippi Baptist Convention, and nine elected from the nine black Baptist groups in the state. On May 3, that board of 18 trustees went on record approving the concept of exploring a

merger with the trustees of the board of Sophia Sutton Assembly in Prentiss, "and that the president of the seminary and the chairman of the seminary trustee board be given the authority to take the necessary action to prepare for the merger."

The Sophia Sutton board is currently a self-perpetuating board. Sidney Richmond, director, retired in March of this year and Mrs. Richmond is interim director.

The MBCB Executive Committee recommendation concerning the trustee change added, "Since the MBCB has the responsibility of funding of the merging Boards; such an arrangement will provide opportunities for better informed expenditure of mission funds."

Currently, the seminary trustees are elected from the general populace of Mississippi Baptists. Should the action be adopted by the MBCB and then by the convention in (Continued on page 5)

During SBC

Evangelists plan festival, meeting

By Dan Martin

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP)—After a year of studying its future, the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists is planning a restructured program for the 1984 meeting at the Southern Baptist Convention.

After several years of acrimonious controversy, the 1983 annual meeting of the Conference voted to abolish the meeting and to study merging the group into the Pastors' Conference. However, after a year of study and a mail poll of the 350 members of the conference, it was decided to continue having an annual meeting in conjunction with the SBC.

"Last year, in an effort to bury the controversy, we voted to completely abolish the whole thing," said Rick Scarborough, an evangelist from Mobile, Ala., who is serving his second term as president of the Conference of Southern Baptist Evangelists.

"But in July, Jimmy Draper (president of the SBC) called me into his office and asked me not to eliminate it. After talking to several key people we found we were meeting a real need in the lives of many folks. We decided we needed to eliminate the controversy but not the program," Scarborough said.

Scarborough, whose election to a second term at the helm of the group was a departure from tradition, said much of the controversy centered on finances and revolved around "two very vocal and very visible men."

While saying he does not know if the controversy between the two "strong personalities" has died down yet, he said steps have been taken to eliminate the financial burden on the small organization by eliminating two items which "produced a financial straitjacket."

"We have eliminated the banquet," he said, explaining the conference was in a continual bind "trying to figure out how to pay for 500 places when only 200 people showed up."

"A lot of controversy also surrounded the printing of a directory, which was a power struggle and a financial drain. This year the Home Mission Board evangelism section has taken over that responsibility and will put out the directory of evangelists which will go to every church in the convention and will list as many evangelists as possible, not just members of the Conference," Scarborough added.

With the elimination of the banquet and the directory, the Conference will "settle back into being a fellowship, which was what it was intended to be when it started," he said.

With the program for 1984, Scarborough said planners are "hoping to eliminate some of the bad connotations" which have surrounded the CSBE in recent years.

The program will have three features: a formal program from 1:30 to 5 p.m. Wednesday (June 13) in the Music Hall at the H. Roe Bartle Hall of the Kansas City Convention Center, a Festival of Praise June 11 and 12 from 10 to 11:30 p.m. at the Colonial

Ballroom of the Radisson Muehlebach Hotel, and a breakfast business meeting at 7 a.m. Tuesday for the conference, in the Trianon Room at the Radisson-Muehlebach Hotel.

The program Wednesday is designed "to strengthen the pastors and messengers there for the convention. The convention itself does not include a whole lot of inspiration, and we want to provide a break in the middle of the action to encourage the preachers. They can come to the Wednesday afternoon meeting and hear some great preachers and singers have fellowship and go back to the convention refreshed and spiritually revitalized," Scarborough said.

Speaking at the program will be Junior Hill, an evangelist from Hartselle, Ala.; Scarborough and Ron Dunn, a conference leader from Irving, Texas.

Music will be provided by three soloists and three groups. The soloists are Pat Roper, an evangelist from Greenville, S.C., and music director for the CSBE; Lois Jane from Gallatin, Tenn., and Alan Celoria from Jackson, Miss. Groups are Eternity from Austin, Texas; New Song from Valdosta, Ga., and the Murk Family from Wheaton, Ill.

Roper will be assisted in leading the music by Jackson Cox from Milledgeville, Ga., and assistant music director for the conference. Pianist will be John Bos from Orlando, Fla.

The Festival of Praise on Monday and Tuesday nights will replace the Afterglow sessions of recent years. Scarborough said the change is an "effort to restructure and rename the event to eliminate some of the controversy."

The Festival will feature the six featured musical groups, as well as other music evangelists who wish to perform. It also will have testimonies and a devotional and prayer time. "We will ask one of the preachers present each night to 'share a word and lead a prayer time in a spontaneous way,'" Scarborough said.

Scarborough said the separate business meeting is another effort to bring harmony to the conference. "We have always aired our dirty linen during the Wednesday afternoon session right there on the floor. One loudmouth, either in or out of order, could cause a lot of problems and it gave us a horrible reputation."

The morning meeting will deal with conference business. "We set it in the morning because it is awfully hard to be controversial that early in the day," Scarborough said.

"We want the controversy to settle down and for the conference to provide a time of revitalization. We intend to provide spirit-anointed preaching and singing so anyone who wants to come can come and be blessed," Scarborough concluded.

(Dan Martin is Baptist Press news editor.)



Bayou View dedicates new plant

BAYOU VIEW CHURCH, GULFPORT, dedicated a new church facility on April 1. The service culminated the re-location of the total church plant. The building has over 17,200 square feet of space and was built for approximately \$700,000. Pictured are members of the building committee. Front row, from left: Boyd Rhodes, Harold Bacon, Woodye Eskridge, and Grover Stuart. Back row, from left: James Evans, Charles Delk, Henry Haller, and Bryant Barnes, pastor.

ACTS counseling strategy offers a personal touch

FORT WORTH, Texas—The American Christian Television System has its programming centered on a nationwide audience but is establishing a strategy for viewer contact as personal as a next-door neighbor.

The network's "Invitation to Life" program, featuring John Bisagno of Houston's First Church as preacher, and Larry Black, minister of music, First Church, Jackson, Miss., as music director, will seek response from listeners with personal needs and place them in contact with local church leaders.

Fred Neyland of the commission staff is director of counselor training, which is working with local ACTS boards to invite listener response. Following the sermons by Bisagno, a local phone number will be flashed on television screens with an invitation for persons needing help to call.

Seconds later, one of the counselors will contact the person initiating the call. The strategy calls for continued contacts to gain a profession of faith or a renewal of commitment through a local Baptist church.

"The ACTS telephone counseling strategy will be used with the telecasting of 'Invitation to Life' and other programs and can aid local church growth and ministry to meet the needs of people," said Neyland in describing the counseling objective.

Most of the calls are expected from persons who have not made a personal commitment to Christ. Each of the churches participating in the telephone service will be urged to enlist counselors able to respond to "the needs of callers and suggest resources for other help." There will be training sessions for the counselors, including a film which will serve as a basic guide.

Counselors are trained to respond to "the specific needs of the individual calling." The "primary response is to a basic evangelistic appeal."

The commission suggests asking permission for a visit to the home of the individual for "a process of cultivation." Other suggestions are for

visits from the Sunday School group to which the caller would belong, for contact from a Church Training leader, and from the appropriate missionary organization of the church.

The suggested strategy maintains contact with the local church over a six-month period.

Book Store

(Continued from page 3)

space with warehousing unnecessary. All the inventory will be in the sales area, said McGlocklin.

McGlocklin said he believes the new store will possibly be the largest local sales floor among all 65 Baptist Book Stores. He will have a 540 square foot conference room available for Mississippi Baptists on a first come basis. In that room he plans to have audiovisual equipment available for preview of programs.

He envisions a "store within a store" there exclusively for music. And he also sees space for such items as pew samples and a video area for Christian programs for sale or possible rent, plus computer software for such things as Bible study.

McGlocklin plans to auction off all the old fixtures in the present store building. And with the doors opening about the first of September, he said, he hopes for a grand opening about the first of October.

The new address, come September, will be Baptist Book Store, Westland Plaza, 965 Ellis Ave., Jackson, Miss., 39209. The phone number will remain the same as it is now: 354-3417.

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Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

May in the Magic City

Thunder cannonaded "America's Magic City," and I awoke in the Belton Inn. It must have been 3 a.m. I drifted back into an uneasy sleep and dreamed that all the motel guests were tramping down the stairways and calling to me, "Come on. Tornado on the way!"

My roommate, a brunette beauty, Celia Moore, said next morning that she had not slept well either. We were in Birmingham, Ala., for a Woman's Missionary Union general writers' conference, May 2-5. (Her husband, Peyton, is from Meridian, and she's a native of Brooklyn, N.Y. They were formerly missionaries to Vietnam and Hong Kong. Now they are home missionaries in Florida at Fort Lauderdale; he is executive director of the Gulf Stream Baptist Association). She and I were among 14 with assignments to write for *Royal Service*. Another was Wilda Fancher of Coffeeville, who is state WMU president.

For breakfast Thursday Celia and I met Lounette Templeton, missionary to Hong Kong. Across the room I spied Bryant and Margaret Ann Cummings. (She writes for *Aware/Discovery*. Though they live a couple of blocks from me in Clinton, I had to go to Alabama to find a few minutes to talk with them.) The night before, during a dinner meeting at the Downtown Club, I'd seen Evelyn (Mrs. Chester) Vaughn (also *Aware/Discovery* writer) of Jackson and met Sharon Neff (*Contempo*) from Arcola, Miss. Sharon and I had talked previously by phone and letter, but not face to face.

It was a thrill to me—after so many years of writing letters there—to attend a meeting at the "old" WMU building. Many times (long ago) I walked or drove past its columns at 600 N. 20th St. Last fall I entered it for the first time and got a guided tour, including a view of Lottie Moon's trunk in the foyer and the doll collection in the library. Most of the meetings for the recent writers' conference were held in the Mallory Room on fourth floor. Pictures of former SBC WMU presidents were hanging on the wall to our right, as we sat facing an exquisite Oriental silk screen.

One of two missionary writers who gave testimonies Thursday morning concerning the 1985-86 WMU emphasis, "Multiply the Vision," was a former Mississippian, Rebecca VanLandingham Waugh. She and her husband are serving in South Woodstock, Vermont.

It was educational and fascinating to see how the Foreign Mission Board and the Home Mission Board and Woman's Missionary Union correlate their themes and emphases. Program coordinators representing each explained what would be expected of writers in this regard. Jim Newton was speaking for the Home Mission Board when Bobbie Sorrell came in and said, "A tornado has hit Montgomery. Another has been sighted near here. A warning has sounded, and we are to go to the basement." As I followed the crowd

down five flights of stairs, I recalled my dream. Eery. The program resumed in the basement, where we sat on cardboard boxes or on the floor. Jim said, "I've suspected that my audiences might not always be interested in my speeches, but that's the first time I ever saw everybody get up and leave at once!"

A high spot of glorious, sunshiny Friday was lunch with Betty Merrell, editor of *Royal Service*. (She and her husband, Ron, are former missionaries to Vietnam.) My assignment is writing Round Table book reviews for six months of 1985-86. The writer for the other six months is Lillian McFadden of West Covina, Calif. Betty, Lillian, and I walked across a downtown park to the Civic Center and ate at the delightful little glass-roofed Encore. Chicken salad and fresh fruit—pineapple, canteloupe, grapes, nuts—proved a good choice. Even better, though, was the fellowship with Betty and Lillian.

Friday night we got an unscheduled look at the (not quite finished) new building, where Woman's Missionary Union, SBC, employees expect to move within a few weeks. One who helped to provide transportation for this unexpected treat was Rebecca Waugh's mother, Mrs. David VanLandingham of Jackson, a visitor at the conference. We drove south (I think). Anyhow, we passed the Vulcan and the Mountainbrook exit. Windows encircle the mountaintop building. From the upper floors we could see stretching in every direction the green foothills of the Appalachians.

Afterward, at Fred Gang's Restaurant, I tried the chicken teriyaki. Akiko Wolford, Japanese-American who is president of Ohio WMU and a *Royal Service* writer, shared a fried ice cream with me.

In our age level conference, Betty Merrell asked us to describe the taste of the peppermint candies she gave us. She said, "When you sit down to write, maintain your own flavor, your own style." During two of those *Royal Service* sessions, each of us shared some personal experiences. Wilda asked me not to print the story of her most embarrassing moment. I didn't promise—but I won't. Ask her sometimes.

Carolyn Weatherford spoke on Wednesday evening. Bobbie Sorrell led in the commissioning of the writers on Saturday.

"Excellence in writing is picking up the twigs and leaves," said Lucien Coleman, professor at Southwestern Seminary, who passed along some special tips on how to be a good writer. "It's paying attention to the little details." In Japan, he recalled, he saw an elderly woman working in one of the country's famous gardens. Gradually he realized she was spending all her time, every day, picking up twigs and leaves. At first he wondered if it would be worthwhile to spend so much of one's life like that, but as he thought about it, he knew it would—because she was creating a thing of beauty.

Sponsors needed for refugees

Several Europeans are in a transit center in Maryland awaiting sponsors. They cannot leave the center until a sponsor is found.

Three Europeans in this situation are Janos Kovacs, a single Hungarian man, born in 1952, Roman Catholic, by trade an agricultural mechanic, speaks Hungarian.

Gheorghe Dinulescu, single Romanian man, born in 1956, an Orthodox, by trade a die maker, speaks Romanian and some English.

Dorel Tusinean, married Romanian man traveling alone, born in 1958, an Orthodox, by trade a lathe operator, speaks Romanian.

For further information on sponsorship opportunities and responsibilities, contact Richard Alford, language missions consultant, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, 968-3800.

Prison, jail ministry plans consultation

The Mississippi Prison and Jail Ministry Consultation, May 18-19, at the Baptist Equipping Center at Parchman, is designed to equip persons in prisons and jails in communities and churches to be more effective in ministering to offenders, ex offenders and their families.

The Consultation begins with a tour of the Penitentiary at 9:30 a.m. on May 18 and concludes with lunch on May 19.

For further information, contact John McBride, director of the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, Miss., 39205, phone 968-3800.

Bellevue holds missions meet

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP)—Southern Baptist mission programs will receive \$100,000 and the commitment of 42 people because of the second World Missions Conference at Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

During the four-day conference in March the church's one-time gift to missions in 1984 was taken. The \$90,011 given will be supplemented by funds from last year's missions conference so the Foreign Mission Board of the SBC will receive \$65,000, the Home Mission Board \$30,000, and the Tennessee Baptist Convention state mission offering \$5,000.

Adrian Rogers, pastor of Bellevue and former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, announced the church also will pay off a \$23,300 mortgage for the Solid Rock Southern Baptist Church in Altoona, Pa. The Pennsylvania church has already started two missions of its own. The pastor, Steve Umholtz, was one of the speakers at the Bellevue conference.

Thursday, May 17, 1984

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5

Executive Committee suggests method change

(Continued from page 3)

November, the trustees could only be chosen from the 100 convention board members.

Earl Kelly, executive secretary of the MBCB, explained that "orderly process" would mean that as three seminary trustee posts come up each year, those three would be replaced by MBCB members.

Other major action by the Executive Committee included adopting a report from Frank Gunn, chairman representing a long range planning committee of the board's Camps and Assemblies Committee. Gunn asked that Phase I of construction at Central Hills Baptist Retreat at Kosciusko be authorized to be completed despite the fact that the old Kittiwake property on the Gulf Coast has not yet been sold. Earlier plans called for Phase I to be completed at the sale of Kittiwake.

The Executive Committee authorized up to \$250,000 to be spent on this current phase. This would include adding a bathhouse, tenting platforms, and activity areas, plus a staff house for up to 16 staffers, erosion control, and a public address system in the dining hall and surrounding area.

Phase II, which not under consideration, would include permanent housing for retreat-type situations.

The Executive Committee also authorized Gunn's committee to employ the original architects who designed Gulfshore, to begin a feasibility study for expansion of Gulfshore facilities, giving special attention to the lunchroom serving line, and additional housing and classroom space. This does not mean that additions will be made, only that a study will be made.

The Executive Committee au-

thorized employment from a missions/evangelism committee recommendation of a full time Baptist Student Union director at Itawamba Junior College beginning in 1985, and approved replacing the existing BSU facility at the University of Mississippi as soon as the expansion and renovation project at Mississippi State University is paid off in 1987. This is subject to full board approval.

William L. Owens was elected as the Alcorn Association representative on the board replacing Charles Dill; and Danny Berry of Covington Association, will replace Tommy Arinder.

The certified public accounting firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company, made its audit report for 1983 and 1983 concerning convention board accounting procedures and found no condition that would reflect material weakness in procedures.

Baptists get started in French Guiana

CAYENNE, French Guiana—Baptists are open for business in French Guiana and they're getting unexpected help from Haitians and Guyanese. Pioneer Southern Baptist missionaries James and Jerri Darnell arrived in this tiny South American nation last year to open Baptist work. They started with a media campaign to attract interested people and locate other Baptists.

Several Haitian and Guyanese immigrants, some of whom had been active Baptists in their home countries, were among about 45 people who attended the first public worship service, held in January at the Darnells' home.



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Committee on Boards nominations

SBC Committee on Boards nominations continued from last week:

FOREIGN MISSION BOARD (84 members): 23 nominations considered; 13 renominations, 10 new members.

New members include Joseph P. Hester, minister of missions activity at Cottage Hill church, Mobile, new Alabama member; William L. Hancock of Highview church, Louisville, Ky., replacing John C. Huffman of Mayfield, who moved.

New members filling unexpired terms include Bill Hall of Gethsemane church, Danville, Ky., replacing Marion T. Duncan, of Catlettsburg, who died (term to expire in 1986), and Hal Browning Boone Jr., a physician from First church, Friendswood, Texas, replacing Rick A. Forrester of Vernon, who moved (term to end in 1986).

New members replacing persons ineligible for a second term include Bryan W. Judge, a farmer/rancher from First church, St. Cloud, Fla., replacing Mrs. R. J. Alexander, Jacksonville; Mrs. Harriett Gilbert, a homemaker from East church, Brunswick, Ga., replacing Mrs. W. Jack Smith, Brunswick; E. Harmon Moore, retired executive director-treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana, Brownsburg, replacing Ronald P. Liesmann, Bloomington; Jerry Don Abernathy, evangelism director of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City, replacing William E. Neptune, Vivian; Paul E. Martin, an attorney from West Memorial Church, Houston, replacing Harold T. Branch, Corpus Christi, and Hunter Riggins, a layman from Emmaus church, Poquoson, Va., replacing Raymond L. Spence Jr., Richmond.

Nominated for second terms are Harrell R. Cushing, Gadsden, Ala.; Mrs. Glen N. Crofts, Phoenix, Ariz.; W. N. Prather Sr., Eunice, La.; W. W. Walley, Waynesboro, Miss.; Jim E. Jeffries, Springfield, Mo.; Mrs. James F. Dalton, Asheville, N. C.; Jimmie H. Carpenter, Seneca, S. C.; Carroll C. Owen, Nashville, Tenn.; Robert E. Smith, Weslaco, Texas; Mrs. R. L. Rhodes Jr., Grafton, Va.; Wayne Varner, Lynchburg, Va.; Mrs. Walter L. Bradley, Richmond, Va., and Meriwether W. Buckalew, Falls Church, Va.

HOME MISSION BOARD (84 members): 21 nominations considered; 11 renominations, 10 new members.

New members are Troy Morrison of 12th Street church, Gadsden, new Alabama member; John Click of Immanuel church, Wichita, Kansas, replacing John B. Cox of Millard, Neb., who resigned (term expiring 1987); Thomas M. Freeman of First church, Dunn, N. C., replacing Richard S. Eskew of Yadkinville, who was eligible for a second full term but was not renominated;

New members replacing members ineligible for renomination include Joe Bob Mizzell of Alberta church, Tuscaloosa, Ala., replacing O. Wyn-

dell Jones, Montgomery; J. Don Aderhold of Columbia Drive church, Decatur, Ga., replacing Stanley Howells, Macon; Wendell Romans of Boone's Creek church, Lexington, Ky., replacing William L. Turner, Lexington; William H. Delaney of South Seminole church, Chattanooga, Tenn., replacing Gerald L. Stowe of Cookeville; Albert E. Simms of Derbyshire church, Richmond, Va., replacing Emmett C. Stroop of Harrisonburg; Mrs. Ellington E. Wheelless, pastor's wife from First church, Springfield, Va., replacing Charles B. Nunn, Richmond, and Mrs. Rachel Howard, a homemaker from First church, Doraville, Ga., replacing Mrs. Weldon Shows of Atlanta.

Members renominated include Mrs. Cathleen Lewis, Montgomery, Ala.; Johnny Jackson, Little Rock, Ark.; Warren G. Hall, Los Altos, Calif.; John L. Hessel, West Frankfort, Ill.; Kenneth L. Fournet, Martinsville, La.; Mrs. Lloyd Haworth, Centertown, Mo.; P. Edward Rickenbacker, Belton, S. C.; Mrs. Bruce McIver, Dallas; D. F. Norman, Stone Mountain, Ga.; James C. Strickland Jr., Cartersville, Ga.; Frank B. Lowndes Jr., Atlanta.

ANNUITY BOARD (55 members, being reduced to 48): 11 nominees considered; one place was eliminated by not replacing a trustee who died; five were renominated and six are new members.

Robert C. Mann of Boone, N. C., died and was not replaced on the board.

Bob R. Howard, a general insurance agent from First Church, Independence, Mo., was nominated to fill the unexpired term of Roy R. Heimbarger of St. Louis, who resigned. The term ends in 1986.

Other new members are Joe S. Martinez of Primera Iglesia Bautista in Denver, Colo., replacing Sam Burk Jr., of Aurora; Dallas E. Pulliam of Greenbelt church, Greenbelt, Md., replacing Harold W. Sorrell Jr., of Clinton; William S. Baird, a stockbroker from Roswell Street church, Marietta, Ga., replacing Stanley R. Hahn of Savannah; C. Eugene Phillips of Woodland church, Peoria, Ill., replaces Stanley H. Dill of Urbana, and Paul W. Powell of Greenacres church, Tyler, Texas, replaces D. L. Lowrie of Lubbock.

Renominated were Beverly V. Tinnin of Meridian, Miss.; Ronald G. Davis of Longview (Northwest), Wash.; Mrs. Irene D. Horn of Owasso, Okla., and Alden H. Wilson of Jackson, Tenn.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST FOUNDATION (35 members, including 15 laypersons, representatives of SBC agencies plus the convention president): 11 persons considered; five renominated, six new members.

New agency representatives include Hoffman C. Harless, American Seminary Commission, Nashville, Tenn.; Norris E. Smith, Historical Commission, Memphis, Tenn.; Frank M. Morris, Radio-Television Commission, Opelika, Ala.; plus rep-

resentatives to be named by the subcommittee in Kansas City for the Executive Committee and Midwestern Seminary.

New at-large member is Robert G. Lamons, a banker from First church, Jackson, Tenn.

Renominated are agency representatives Alden H. Wilson, Annuity Board, Nashville, Tenn., and Charles R. Wade, Christian Life Commission, Arlington, Texas.

Also renominated are Calvin R. Guest, Bryan, Texas; Roy L. Depue, Hendersonville, Tenn., and James R. Bocell, St. Joseph, Mo.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST COMMISSION ON THE AMERICAN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY (16 members): four persons considered; one renominated, three new members.

New members include Donald L. Sharp of Faith Tabernacle church, Chicago, Ill., replacing Harold A. Collins of Atlanta, Ga.; Kenneth L. Castleberry of Dalewood church, Nashville, Tenn., replacing Hiram A. Lemay of Nashville, and Charles E. Barham, a high school teacher from First church Donelson, Tenn., replacing Mrs. J. Thomas Bryan of Nashville.

Renominated was Thelma A. Pearson of Hattiesburg, Miss.

EDUCATION COMMISSION (21 members): five persons considered; two reappointed, three new members.

New members include William R. Cotton, a farmer, Lemon Heights church, Palatka, Fla., replacing Robert D. Walker Jr., of Gainesville; Georgia Brannon, an attorney from Morningside church, Atlanta, replacing J. Theodore Phillips of Douglasville, and W. Randolph Davenport of Campbellsville church, Campbellsville, Ky., replacing J. M. Boswell of Williamsburg, Ky.

Renominated were John E. Johns of Greenville, S. C.; Mrs. Doris Nunn of Sacramento, Calif.

BROTHERHOOD COMMISSION (36 members): nine persons considered; two reappointed and seven new members.

New members include Robert E. Gaultney of Reynoldsburg church, Reynoldsburg, Ohio, replacing James E. Fird of Niles, Ohio, who died (term to expire in 1987).

New members replacing persons ineligible for second terms include Ellis M. Norris, a government employee from Pennsylvania Avenue church, Washington, replacing Louis S. Clapper of Silver Spring, Md.; Donald N. Varnado, a hospital administrator from Hillcrest church, Franklin, La., replacing Carl E. Voda of Alexandria;

Claire L. Bowe Jr., a rancher from San Jon, N. M., replacing Fred L. Harris of Hatch; Wendell C. Reed, an insurance supervisor from Fort Lewis church, Salem, Va., replacing Harry Houchins of Purcellville; John C. Baxley, a businessman from Anastasia church, St. Augustine, Fla., replacing James Threlkeld of Memphis, Tenn., and Walter G.

Barnes, an insurance executive from Shades Crest church, Birmingham, Ala., replacing James M. Gardner of Blytheville, Ark.

Renominated were Spurgeon Willet Jr., of Warren, Mich., and Don Donaldson of Oklahoma City.

CHRISTIAN LIFE COMMISSION (30 members): seven persons considered; five renominated, two new members.

New members are Richard G. Elkins, a savings and loan official from Hoffmantown church, Albuquerque, N. M., replacing David King of Albuquerque, and Ruffin E. Snow of First church of Lakewood, Tacoma, Wash., replacing Mrs. Irene E. Brame of Tacoma.

Renominated were James E. Harvey of Glendale, Ariz.; Lynn P. Clayton of Alexandria, La.; Donald Blanton of Bel Air, Md.; Mrs. Verna R. Haushalter of Livonia, Mich., and Charles R. Wade of Arlington, Texas.

HISTORICAL COMMISSION (34 members): eight persons considered; three renominated, five new members.

New members include Ray Granade, professor at Ouachita Baptist University from First church, Arkadelphia, Ark.; Jerry L. Tillman of Trinity church, Fresno, Calif., replacing Stephen P. Carleton of Riverside; Sam A. Harvey of Calvary church, Renton, Wash.; Mrs. Margaret Melton, a homemaker from Northside church, Lebanon, Ohio, replacing Gerald A. Bishop of Cincinnati; and David McDaniel, a businessman from Judson church, Nashville, Tenn., replacing John G. Justice of Nashville.

Renominated were Ben M. Primer of Baltimore, Md.; E. Jerry Vardaman of Lampkin, Miss., and Ira V. Birdwhistell of Georgetown, Ky.

RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMISSION (26 members): six persons considered; one renominated, five new members.

New members include Ted E. Savage of First church, Colorado Springs, Colo., replacing Stewart R. McChesney of Arvada; Len B. Turner of First church, Merritt Island, Fla., replacing N. B. Langford Jr., of Panama City; David John Williams of Naperville church, Naperville, Ill., replacing George H. Davis of Urbana;

James Russell Capps, a broadcaster from Tabernacle church, Raleigh, N. C., replacing Tommy Joe Payne of Washington, N. C., and Harold T. Brundige, an attorney from First church, Martin, Tenn., replacing Fred W. Isaacs Jr., of Cosby.

Renominated was J. Clark Hensley of Jackson, Miss.

STEWARDSHIP COMMISSION (26 members): six persons were considered; four renominated and two new members.

New members are Lloyd A. Sparkman of First church, Crossett, Ark., replacing Mrs. Roy E. Cooper of Jonesboro, and Daniel Pena, a high school counselor from New Life church, Colorado Springs, Colo., re-

placing Robert J. Oxford of Wheat Ridge.

Renominated were Dewey Corder of Montgomery, Ala.; Glen W. Zumwalt of Wichita, Kansas; Dan T. Stowe of Dublin, Ohio, and Jim D. Bowmer of Temple, Texas.

SUNDAY SCHOOL BOARD (84 members): 23 nominations considered; 12 renominated, 11 new members:

New members are Lavan G. Parker of Central church, Birmingham, new Alabama member; Jeff McBeth of Academy church, Colorado Springs, Colo., replacing Rowland Gregory of Denver, who moved (term to expire in 1985); Janice L. Williams, a supervisory rehabilitation counselor with the District of Columbia government, from Tacoma Park church, Washington, replacing J. Franklin Helms, Greenbelt, Md., who died (term to expire in 1987); Floyd E. Hughes of First church, DeWitt, Mich., replacing Michael J. Clingenpeel of Ann Arbor, who moved (term to end in 1987);

T. W. Garrison Jr., a physician from First church Camdentown, Mo., replacing J. R. McNeil of Fort Dodge, Iowa, who died; Edwin Young, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Houston, replacing Leon Marsh of Fort Worth, Texas, who declined to serve a second term;

Filmore Strunk of Central church, Oak Ridge, Tenn., replacing Harold D. Smith of Columbia, who resigned; and Robert L. York, a businessman from First church, Nashville, Tenn., replacing John B. Daley of Nashville, who resigned.

New members replacing members ineligible for renomination include Gary W. Bearce of Pleasant Valley church, Liberty, Mo., replacing A. L. Palmer of Trenton; Joseph T. Knott, an attorney from First church, Raleigh, N. C., replacing Alton G. Elmore of Edenton, and Jerry D. Burden, an executive with Gideons International from First church, Donelson, Tenn., replacing G. Wayne Brown of Brentwood.

Members renominated include Mrs. J. R. Stevenson, Auburn, Ala.; Joe H. Courson, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Samuel H. Letson Jr., Norcross, Ga.; David C. Jackson, Frankfort, Ky.; Charles W. Adams, Dover, Md.; Frank L. Palmer, Oak Harbor (Northwest), Wash.; J. Thomas Terry, Shawnee, Okla.; Lloyd E. Batson, Pickens, S. C.; Earl C. Davis, Memphis, Tenn.; Thomas M. Chism, El Paso, Texas; Mrs. Jerome George, Dallas, and William G. Hurt, Hampton, Va.

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Global vision needed

Missions bonds Baptists, says FMB chief, Parks

By Jack U. Harwell

ATLANTA (BP)—R. Keith Parks is not a fighter by nature and as president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, he doesn't see his role as one of creating controversy.

He is a man of deep convictions, however, and has grave concerns about trends in Southern Baptist life. He feels compelled to voice those concerns, even at the risk of provoking ripples in Baptist waters.

In the April meeting of the Foreign Mission Board in Biloxi, Miss., Parks spoke of Baptists getting "side-tracked" from their historic basic principles.

"If we lose our historic perspective," he said, "and unintentionally or unknowingly allow a substitute for missions to be defined as our distinguishing characteristic, we will have changed the basic nature of our Southern Baptist Convention. This will distort our past, change our present and jeopardize our future."

A few days later, in Atlanta for a meeting concerning the new Missions Learning Center near Richmond, Va., Parks picked up the same theme.

"God is smiling on Southern Baptists for special reasons that we need to understand," he said. "Our world is changing, with more radical swings than ever before. . . . In the midst of these world changes, God is pouring out his blessings on Southern Baptist foreign missions efforts as never before. We don't need to dilute those blessings by forgetting our purposes and our directions."

In an interview with the *Christian Index* (the Georgia Baptist newsjournal), Parks elaborated on the dangers he sees.

"I travel all over America and all over the world," he said. "I hear many Baptists say many things. And I watch what is happening in churches, in pulpits and in institutions. I fear a subtle shift is taking place in what holds Baptists together. Many people don't know this shift is taking place; others seem determined to hasten it by their preaching and actions."

"I am truly frightened at the lack of awareness of what makes a Southern Baptist a Baptist. Historically and theologically, we have been distinguished by our commitment to missions, worldwide missions, as the hallmark of Baptist belief and practice."

"We have believed in the local church, but we have always taught that these local churches had a global mandate to share the gospel everywhere."

"But in recent years a growing number of voices within our fellowship have begun to say that missions is not the Southern Baptist distinctive. Their voices would tell us local evangelism and biblical orthodoxy are our vital Baptist distinctives."

"This sounds good on the surface and is popular in the current national

mood. But it is simply not true to historic Baptist principles. Our denomination has never been a doctrine-making body. We always have believed in evangelism, but we have given a global vision to that belief. That commitment is now in jeopardy across our Southern Baptist fellowship."

The Texas native said: "I believe the Bible with all my heart. I don't

"... I have a grave concern that our convention must—I repeat—must elect officers and board members who are mainline, centrist types of Southern Baptists. Extreme people tend to hasten this erosion from historic convictions."

know a Southern Baptist missionary who doesn't. But, because of the Bible, I believe in global missions. To be truly biblical, a church must have a global ministry with a local base, but I hear fewer and fewer pastors and denominational board members voicing that belief."

Parks said the new emphasis on local evangelism and biblical orthodoxy "manifests itself by leading churches down two distinct tracks."

He described one of these tracks as "churches supporting any kind of missions effort that comes along, whether it is Southern Baptist or not. These churches see no conflict with giving lukewarm support to missions programs of their convention; they give equal support to every other missions project which seems 'evangelistic' or 'orthodox.'"

He added: "These same pastors would be scandalized if their church members followed suit; that is, if they supported every other church that seemed to be 'evangelistic' and 'orthodox.'"

"There is a dichotomy here that needs to be analyzed and articulated. It might not be intentional or deliberate, but it is just as deadly and self-defeating as if it were."

The second track Parks mentioned is "the track of doing their own missions program, like our independent Baptist brethren, without full support of their denominational missions ministries."

He said this growing trend to do "Lone Ranger" missions projects is not limited to any one region of the country.

He did relate it to current theological tensions in the SBC. "Controversy tends to push people to extremes," he explained. "When that happens, we tend to twist our basic nature."

"In that context, I have a grave concern that our convention must—I repeat—must elect officers and board members who are mainline, centrist types of Southern Baptists. Extreme people tend to hasten this

erosion from historic convictions."

"Unless we elect those who have a true concept of supporting who we are as Baptists, they will inevitably lead us away from our basic principles of global missions and evangelism."

Voicing again his commitment to local churches, Parks cautioned: "Sometimes we have been so committed to local church autonomy, we have emphasized localism out of balance to biblical teachings about worldwide responsibility."

"This extreme localism is conducted by culture—the 'Me generation,' permissiveness, anti-establishment mentality, etc. And it often produces one-issue leaders who champion one cause and one church to exclusion of all else in the Christian enterprise."

"Southern Baptists need to embrace the entire world spectrum of the Christian gospel and we need to choose officers and board members who understand, articulate and preserve that commitment."

(Harwell is editor of *The Christian Index*, newsjournal of the Georgia Baptist Convention.)

Miss. Baptist Seminary plans May commencement

The Mississippi Baptist Seminary will hold its 41st commencement exercise, Friday, May 25, at 10 a.m. at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church, 1245 Tunica Street, Jackson.

Edward L. Wheeler, dean of the Morehouse School of Religion, will bring the commencement sermon. Wheeler has served as associate director of the Black Church Relations Department of the Home Mission Board, SBC; and as visiting professor at Midwestern and Southern Seminaries.

During the commencement exercises the seminary will award academic degrees and certificates to 76 graduates, of whom five attended the main campus in Jackson. The remaining 71 graduates received their education through the extension system of the seminary. There are 24 extensions of the Mississippi Baptist Seminary located throughout the state.

The name and number of the academic awards to be given are: doctor of ministry—1; master of



"By Love Compelled"

AN ASSOCIATIONAL WMU OFFICERS RETREAT WAS HELD AT CAMP GARAYWA April 27-28. Two-hundred-sixty eight women attended from 64 associations. The theme, "By Love Compelled," is the 1984-85 WMU emphasis. Lynn Yarbrough, WMU, SBC, was guest conference leader.

Actions verify

My affection for my wife is discreetly public as well as private. When I'm not speaking in a church service, I sit close beside her. Whenever possible I walk with her, talking to her and holding her hand. I let the world know that I am proud to be her husband. My actions verify my words. It pleases me to hear somebody say, "See how he loves his wife?" I accept my wife for who she is—not an angel, but a human being with faults like anybody else.—Roger D. Congdon



ASSOCIATIONAL OFFICERS OF WMU MET FOR AN interpretation meeting May 8 at Alta Woods Church, Jackson. Sixty-two attended from 45 associations. They heard Mrs. Helen Allan, pictured, WMU executive director, Ohio Woman's Missionary Union, give the church plans for 1984-85 on the WMU emphasis, "By Love Compelled."

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Two Baptist churches are surrounded by violence in the Dominican Republic

By Erich Bridges

SANTIAGO, Dominican Republic (BP) — The Dominican Republic's worst national rioting since the 1965 civil war calmed by the end of April, but tension remained high in two Santiago neighborhoods where Baptist churches are located.

Twelve people died in Santiago, the Dominican Republic's second largest city, during a week of violence that began April 23 during a national 24-hour strike called to protest price increases. Some of the worst fighting occurred near Santiago's First Baptist Church and another Baptist church, both located in poor neighborhoods.

"There was an awful lot of shooting and fighting around the area where (First Baptist Church) is, on that street and in and around that area,"

said Samuel Shaw, Southern Baptist missionary and pastor of the church, in a telephone interview April 27.

A young man was fatally shot by police near First Baptist April 26, Shaw reported. The other church had seen a "lot of action" too, he said, but he knew of no injuries among members of either church. Some 180 people attend the two churches and several small mission congregations in the area.

About 25 people made professions of faith in Christ during a Baptist-sponsored evangelistic crusade held the previous week. "We were going to have a meeting of all our new Christians on Monday night (April 23), and three different individuals of the church called me and told me, 'Just don't come.' Things were too bad for a North American to show his face in

that area of town where the church is located," said the Texas-born missionary.

The area was quiet by April 27 but military forces were "everywhere to be seen and they're ready for anything to happen," Shaw said. "Things have calmed down a whole lot but there's still an awful lot of tension, particularly out here."

More than 50 people were killed and hundreds injured in rioting nationwide. None of the 14 Southern Baptist missionaries in the Dominican Republic was hurt, nor were there reports of injuries or deaths among the approximately 800 Baptists in the country.

The price rises that touched off the violence are one part of an economic austerity program required by the International Monetary Fund in re-

turn for a \$599 million loan to the Dominican Republic. The prices of all imported goods were hiked 200 percent and many food prices also jumped.

The Dominican Republic is in better economic shape than some of its Latin neighbors. Inflation has stayed relatively low and the economy grew steadily in the 1970s. But international demand for sugar and the nation's other main exports has dropped and unemployment is estimated at 40 percent. Half of the population lives on less than \$50 a month per capita.

"In my church there are people living on one meal a day," said Shaw. "That's because they can't afford to buy anything else."

(Bridges writes for the Foreign Mission Board.)

Neb. pastor urges parents to obey law

LOUISVILLE, Neb. (EP)—A minister whose church has operated a school in defiance of the state for seven years now is urging parents to follow a new law. Everett Sileven has suspended classes until July, when the new law will go into effect, and he said parents should comply with "all areas (of the new law) that do not violate their conscience."

"It is our sincere desire that these efforts will help bring about a quick and peaceful resolution to the problem between Faith Baptist Church and the state of Nebraska," Sileven said in a news release, which was read by Assistant Pastor Phil Schmidt. Schmidt said Sileven was in Michigan. With the exception of a one-day return earlier in the year, Sileven has stayed out of Nebraska since a contempt of court warrant was issued for his arrest in late November 1983.

The Faith Baptist Church has long been at odds with the state over operating the Faith Christian School, which does not employ certified teachers. The school has been ordered closed by the state, and the courts have consistently affirmed the state's position.

The new law provides that church schools may be excused from meeting some state approval requirements if other conditions are met. Instructors in such schools would not have to be certified, but they would be required to take a nationally recognized examination or offer other evidence of their competence. The results of such tests or evaluations could be used as evidence whether the school was offering sufficient instruction in basic skills but could not be used to prohibit any school from employing individuals.

Annuity trustees elect new VP

DALLAS (BP)—Annuity Board trustees elected a new investment officer and employed an investment consulting firm in the April meeting of the executive committee.

A George Avinger Jr. was elected vice-president in the board's investment division. Avinger, 50, has been employed by RepublicBank of Dallas for 22 years where he has been president of RepublicBank North, Dallas, for the past three years.

The trustees also added Hotchkiss Associates Inc., of Chicago, as investment consultants.

Grenada missionary back at full speed

GRAND ROY, Grenada (BP) — Six months after the invasion, Missionary Mike Eberhardt is back to full speed.

The violent October coup and subsequent American-Caribbean invasion of Grenada — Grenadians like to call it the "rescue" — put the Southern Baptist evangelist on hold briefly, along with most everyone else on the island. But daily life is returning to normal and Eberhardt is doing what he came to do: evangelism.

His efforts have paid off in the town of Grand Roy, where a former cultist, Kendrick, became a Christian in March. Eberhardt feels that one conversion could result in the evangelization of the whole town, one of Grenada's larger communities.

Eberhardt started a Sunday School and worship service last year in Grand Roy. No regular evangelical witness had existed there previously. He built attendance to about 40, but the group contained only one Christian family. Kendrick was coming, though, and listening.

One day Kendrick stopped Eberhardt and said, "Pastor, something's going to happen here in Grand Roy, and it all hinges on one person. When that person makes a decision, this whole community is going to be open to accept the gospel."

"I think that person is you," the missionary replied. Kendrick thought for a moment and said, "I think so too." In March he stepped forward to profess his faith in Christ, as did two women of the mission congregation.

Eberhardt visited Grand Roy a few days later and Kendrick showed him a two-page written testimony he had prepared to give to some members of the Bahai faith in the area. He also told the missionary, "You said we needed eight to 10 baptized believers to form a church. I'm trying to find nine who will (be) baptize(d)."

With co-workers like Kendrick, Eberhardt's church-starting prospects look good. Eberhardt has also begun a weekly radio program featuring Bible teaching and modern Christian music.

Haiti Baptists drill 100th well

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Haitian Baptists recently drilled their 100th clean water well in a nationwide effort led by Southern

Baptist missionary Jack Hancock.

The wells have improved daily life in many villages that previously had no local access to clean water. Hancock, Haitian co-workers and Southern Baptist volunteers from the United States have used a large drilling machine purchased with Foreign Mission Board hunger relief funds and two smaller machines.

Baptists in impoverished Haiti are "better known today than anytime, primarily because of the nationwide interest in (their) well drilling activities," said William Graves, Foreign Mission Board Caribbean specialist.

Memphis pastor Sanford Western Recorder editor

By James H. Cox

MIDDLETOWN, Ky. (BP) — Jack D. Sanford has been elected editor of the Western Recorder, weekly newspaper of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, effective July 1, 1984.

He succeeds Chauncey R. Daley, who is retiring after 27 years as editor.

Sanford, 58, pastor of Colonial Baptist Church, Memphis, Tenn., since 1976, was approved by the Recorder board of directors April 17, but could not be elected until the executive board of the Kentucky Baptist Convention met May 7 and gave its endorsement.

The election and replacement of a Western Recorder editor is upon nomination by the board of directors of the newspaper, which operates independently of the executive board, but "subject to the approval of the executive board." The minutes also spell out the "principle of the independence of the Western Recorder" and the "freedom of the editor (is) to be reaffirmed and rigidly upheld."

Sanford will join the newspaper staff June 4, working with Daley for four weeks, including attending the Southern Baptist Convention meet-

ing in Kansas City, Mo.

Sanford is a graduate of Carson-Newman College, Jefferson City, Tenn., and holds three degrees from Southern Seminary, — M. Div., 1954; Th.M., 1955, and D.Min., 1974.

His denominational activities include the presidencies of pastors' conferences in Northern Kentucky and West Union associations, both in Kentucky, and in Memphis. He was director of Western Recorder for eight years, an executive board member of the Kentucky Baptist Convention chairman of its executive committee and first vice president of the convention. He has been a trustee of Carson-Newman College and served in several other denominational leadership capacities.

Sanford also taught religion at Bethel College, Hopkinsville, Ky., 1954-57, and at Boyce Bible School in Louisville, 1974-75.

He is author of two Broadman Press books. *Make Your Preaching Relevant* (1963) and *Never Look Back* (1974). He wrote a weekly column for three years in the Paducah Sun-Democrat, as well as regular guest columns in the Boone County (Ky.) Recorder two years and the Champaign-Urbana (Ill.) Courier one year.

(James Cox is associate editor of the Western Recorder.)

Brazilian Baptists start three churches per week

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil — Brazilian Baptists have started some 500 churches in the last three years, an average of more than three per week.

In 1983, 155 new churches joined the Brazilian Baptist Convention, bringing the total to 3,422 churches nationwide with more than 560,000 members. That's still less than half of 1 percent of the Brazilian Baptist population of 131 million.



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Revival Results

Main Street Church, Hattiesburg: Freddie Gage, evangelist; Fred Selby, pastor; 230 professions of faith; 1,036 in Sunday School; over 1,200 present on Sunday morning. (The sanctuary, which seats more than any church in the state, was filled with crowds of 1,800 young people and adults.)

Carey trustees appoint four new administrators

Renovation of two dormitories and the appointment of four new administrators were approved by the William Carey College board of trustees at its May 12 meeting in Hattiesburg.

The four administrative appointments are: W. J. Ward, vice president for business affairs and professor of business; Woodrow Watkins Burt, Jr., vice president for student development and assistant professor of speech; Clinton Nichols, dean of the School of Music and professor of voice; and Larry D. Brumley, director of public relations.

Work will begin immediately on the conversion of Johnson Hall from a women's dormitory to 16 efficiency apartments for married church vocation students. The apartments should be ready for occupancy by fall, said President J. Ralph Noonkester.

Ross Hall, a women's dormitory, is being "thoroughly renovated" to accommodate 64 students in suites, Noonkester said. The dormitory is scheduled to be completed by Thanksgiving.

Rodney Fairchild of Fairchild Construction Company of Hattiesburg and a member of the Carey Board of Development is heading the renovation projects.

The appointment of vice presidents Ward and Burt completes a reorganization of William Carey's administration, increasing the number of vice presidents to four. The college has had only two vice presidents for the past four years, Noonkester said.

Ward, currently director of information systems for Michigan-Wisconsin Pipe Line Company, received his bachelor's degree in accounting from William Carey and his master's degree in business ad-

ministration from the University of Southern Mississippi. In addition to managing business operations for the college, Ward will teach one business course.

Burt is a graduate of Mississippi College, and the University of Missouri in Columbia. He has completed his course work toward the doctor of philosophy degree at the University of Missouri.

Burt is presently dean of student affairs at Hannibal-LaGrange College in Hannibal, Mo. He also has served as associate academic dean and registrar and director of admissions at the college. Prior to his eight year tenure at Hannibal-LaGrange, Burt was director of admissions and dean of men at Clarke College, Newton. Clarke recently merged with Mississippi College. Burt will teach one course in speech.

Nichols succeeds James H. Fry, who has asked to return to full-time teaching, as dean of the School of Music. He received his bachelor's degree from Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Oklahoma, and his master of church music degree from New Orleans Seminary. He also

holds a doctor of music degree from Florida State University, Tallahassee.

Nichols is currently associate professor of church music and voice at New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. He served as chairman of the seminary's Division of Church Music Ministries from 1976-1981.

He also taught at Midwestern Seminary; at Wingate College, Wingate, North Carolina; and at the University of Southern Mississippi.

A frequent soloist for major symphony and opera companies, Nichols has been a leading tenor for the New York City Opera and the New Orleans Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra.

Brumley, a journalism graduate of Baylor University, Waco, Texas, formerly worked in the sports department at the Dallas Times Herald and is currently a news writer for the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The trustees also approved more than 200 May degree candidates. Summer candidates for degrees graduate in a separate ceremony on August 12.

Blue Mountain honors Alumna of the Year

Katherine Beaty was honored as the 1984 Alumna of the Year at Blue Mountain College at the annual meeting of the National Alumnae Association, April 7. Miss Beaty, a resident of Jackson, has an outstanding record of accomplishments in her business and professional life as well as in her church and civic organizations, said a school spokesperson. She has also exhibited meritorious services in behalf of the quality and advancement of Blue Mountain College.

Miss Beaty, who was graduated from Central High School in Jackson, received the B.A. degree from Blue Mountain College in 1948. While a student at BMC she participated in the M Club, served on the Athletic Council, was a member of the Eumonia Society, and served on the Student Government Council.

In 1952 Miss Beaty joined Mississippi Power and Light Company, where she is auditor of local offices. She is the first woman to be Supervisor of Customer Accounting and the first person appointed to serve as auditor of Local MP&L offices.

As an active member of Calvary Church, Jackson, Miss Beaty has served in many leadership positions and has been active in the college Sunday School Department.

Miss Beaty is a member of the Executive Board of the National Alumnae Association and from 1978-80 served as the association president. She has served four terms on the board of trustees of the college. During her 12-year tenure she has served on the Development Committee, the Executive Committee, and as vice chairman of the board.

Westar V transponder secured for interim BTN transmission

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP)—A transponder has been secured on Westar V for interim transmission of Baptist TelNet to churches until the network's regular transponder becomes operational, according to Joe Denney, manager of telecommunications at the Baptist Sunday School Board.

BTN, the Sunday School Board's training network to churches, will be carried on Westar V between June 4 and July 12, when SpaceNet I is expected to be ready to carry the signal to churches.

Testing will be done for one hour per day June 4-8, with Southern Baptist Convention telecasts June 12 and 13 at several sessions.

Other programming will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., June 18-22 and June 25-29. The expanded schedules will start Monday, July 2, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for the month of July.

BTN and ACTS (American Christian Television System) will be on the same satellite, but with different channels for the interim transmission period. BTN will be on transponder channel 18 (9X) and ACTS will be on channel 4 (2X). They also will have the same polarization.

Instructions on the location of Westar V will be mailed to churches, associations and state convention personnel to aid in dish placement to receive the transmission.

Thursday, May 17, 1984

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Homecomings

First Church, Marion: homecoming day; Sunday, May 27; worship service at 11 a.m.; dinner on the grounds; Randy Scarbrough, pastor.

Union Church, north of Puckett on Highway 13: homecoming; Sunday, May 20; beginning at 11 a.m.; guest speaker, former pastor, J. T. Pannell; dinner on the ground; afternoon singing service and a time of fellowship; pastor, Perry Simpson.

Unity Church (Jefferson County): homecoming day; May 27; beginning at 10 a.m.; Lamar Ball, guest speaker; Richard Carroll Christian Gospel Singers, to be in charge of the song service; covered dish lunch to be served at noon.

Mt. Olive Church (Carroll): May 27; homecoming; David Satterwhite, pastor, preaching at 11 a.m.; dinner at the church, outside; The Coila Boys, singing in the afternoon; Steve Daves, minister of music, leading the singing.

County Line (Copiah): May 27; homecoming; Bob Mack, pastor of County Line Church, to bring the message during the 11 o'clock worship service; lunch to follow the morning service, in the lower auditorium; singing service at 1 p.m., featuring groups from several local churches; love offering will be taken for maintenance of cemetery. (Those unable to attend but who wish to contribute, may make checks payable to County Line Baptist Church Cemetery Fund, and mail them to Mrs. Louis Whittington, Route 3, Route 437, Crystal Springs, Mississippi 39059).

Mt. Zion (Clarke County): May 20; memorial and homecoming services; dinner served at the church; singing in the afternoon; John Sikes Quartet, Silas, Ala., guest singers; Terrell Morris, pastor, to bring the morning message.

Chapparel (Wayne): May 20; homecoming; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; morning worship at 11; Ricky Brantley, former pastor, now of Macon, Ga., delivering the message; dinner served at the church; Jimmy D. McDill, pastor.

Heuck's Retreat (Lincoln): homecoming; May 27; Victor Johnson, former pastor, guest speaker; noon meal at the church; afternoon service at 1:15, with memorial service, songs, and cemetery report. The Homecoming Committee reports that a driveway through the cemetery has recently been paved and that an offering will be taken in the afternoon service for the beautification and upkeep of the cemetery.

First, Lambert: May 27; Sunday School at 9:45; morning worship at 11; dinner on the grounds; Lt. Col. Gene Horn, chaplain at Fort Campbell, Ky., and former member of First, Lambert, guest speaker; Jimmy Smith, Ruleville, former music director at Lambert, to lead the music; Wayne Long, pastor.

Johnson Creek (Greene): homecoming and centennial; May 29; Wayne Haselmaier, pastor.

Emmanuel, Jackson: homecoming; May 20; Fred Tarpley of Jackson, former interim pastor, speaking at the morning service; Deacon Quartet to take part in special music and singing; lunch and fellowship in the Family Life Center.

Lyall to direct

Jack Lyall of Clinton, who is retiring this year as head of the music department at Mississippi College, has been appointed as director of operations for the Music Educator Placement Consultants in Mississippi according to Elwood Keister of Gainesville, FL., president of MEPC. Lyall, in his present position since 1959, is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and earned the master of arts and doctor of education degrees from Columbia University Teachers College.

Campers will meet

The National Campers on Mission Rally will be in Waco, Tex., this summer, June 22-24.

This national organization of Christians who camp and minister will be meeting at the Heart of Texas Fairgrounds in Waco.

Registrants need to write J. L. Canafax, Baptist General Convention of Texas, Church Ministries Section, 511 N. Akard, Dallas, Tex., 75201-3355. Include information about type of camper unit, and hookups needed.

Alvin Smith dies

Alvin R. Smith, 80, of Oakvale, retired minister, died May 2. He was the father of Dorothy (Mrs. James P.) Gilbert, missionary to Panama. The funeral service was held at 11 a.m. on Friday morning, May 4, at Oakvale.

Mrs. Gilbert was born in Memphis; her husband was born in White Bluff, Miss. The Gilberts are on furlough now and may be addressed at 4317 Iroquois St., New Orleans, La. 70126.

Off the Record

Odessa, Texas, as well as everywhere else, was suffering in over 100 degrees heat. The Temple Baptist Church took advantage of the situation and had a sign in front of the church reading, "You think it's hot here?"

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Park invites groups to perform enroute to Fair

Churches with various groups going to the World's Fair in New Orleans this summer to present music or drama programs are invited to perform at the Percy Quin State Park during the evening hours.

Group leaders are invited to contact Glen T. Williams, director of missions in Pike Association by writing or calling to schedule a date. This needs to be done as soon as possible to secure the desired date. Write to Box 1100, McComb, Miss. 39648. Or call 684-9920 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3 p.m., Monday through Friday.

No housing or meals can be furnished to groups.

Off the Record

The little girl was sent upstairs by her mother to empty the wastebaskets, but she returned so quickly that her mother said: "Dear, you couldn't have emptied all the baskets in this time."

"They didn't need emptying, Mother," the girl replied. "They just needed stepping in."

Project highlight—possible SBC reentering of Mozambique

HARARE, Zimbabwe (BP)—Thirteen Baptists from Zimbabwe returned from a two-and-a-half-week mission trip to neighboring Mozambique with reports of growing opportunity for missions in the former Portuguese colony.

The trip highlights the potential for reinvolved Southern Baptist foreign missionaries in the Marxist nation, which gained its independence from Portugal in 1975, following a 10-year war.

The trip also represented a significant step for Zimbabwe Baptists, who financed food relief for Mozambique Baptists and preaching, teaching and witnessing in four towns. "It was the first time for Zimbabwe Baptists to plan and finance such a big mission project," said missionary John Faulkner, chairman of the Baptist mission of Zimbabwe.

The team of 10 pastors, two laymen and a pastor's wife conducted all their work in the homes or churches of believers in Mozambique. No pub-

lic or open-air witnessing is allowed in Mozambique, and a Christian must be in a home before he gives someone a tract or opens his Bible to share the message of Jesus Christ.

But the team came back reporting that 200 people accepted Christ. They saw a rising awareness and response to the church now that the government is seen as softening its stance toward Christians. In recent months, President Samora Machel has reopened a dialogue with western nations and South Africa in an attempt to reduce tensions and acquire economic aid.

The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, following a request from the Mozambique Baptist Convention, had begun seeking a missionary couple to re-enter the country for church development in theological education. Two Southern Baptist couples withdrew from there in September 1975 because of political turmoil.

The re-entry couple, who would

need to learn Portuguese, would help in developing and continuing church work among 15 churches, 15 preaching points and about 2,000 Baptists in Mozambique. They would implement or assist in leadership training programs and evangelistic projects and make Bibles, tracts and other printed material available.

"Now is the time to act," said Marion G. Fray, the board's associate to the director for southern Africa, who has surveyed the situation. If a couple gets into the country, he said, plans for a second couple will be completed. The board is also urging neighboring countries, such as Zambia and Tanzania, to send people to work in partnership with Mozambique.

Missionary Roy Davidson and Swazi Baptists are already exploring ways to make regular trips into the country carrying grain. Mozambique is one of the nations hardest hit by the drought affecting much of Africa and is already reporting deaths from malnutrition and starvation.

Book Reviews

THE POWER DELUSION, by Anthony Campolo, Jr.; Victor Books; 165 pages; paperback, \$4.95.

Anthony Campolo is an exciting writer and lecturer who is gaining prominence among evangelicals in our country. He chairs the Department of Sociology-Anthropology at Eastern College, St. Davids, Pennsylvania.

Campolo agrees with Nietzsche that the essence of humanity is "the will to power." He takes this philosophical insight and applies it to a wide variety of Christian moral and ethical situations. Though he disagrees with Nietzsche's atheism, he does feel that the hunger for power is anti-Christian. Like Nietzsche he sees "the will to power" as the source of problems between husbands and wives, parents and children, employees and employers, and nation and nation.

Campolo sees power as diametrically opposite of love. The incarnation is the model for change. God did not come in power. He came in weakness and in love. He refused to use power to change the world's system. In bowing to the power of the world's system, and thus dying on the cross, He defeated power and demonstrated that in the end the way of love and self-sacrifice is the only means of triumph.

Campolo skillfully analyzes the power struggle that exists between sexes and that raises its ugly head in husband-wife relationships. He challenges the church to refuse to use the method of worldly power to accomplish its ends. Parents are urged to see the difference between power and authority—the former being "the prerogative to determine what happens and the coercive force to make others yield to your wishes—even against their will"; and the latter being the ability "to persuade others to do his will without coercion."

This thought-provoking book will provide grist for the mills of teachers, college professors, and pastors.—Reviewed by Alan Day, pastor, First Baptist, McComb, MS.

stumps at its center, says, "I am learning to let go. I have chosen growth, right through the pain with its blindness and muzzle. God, treat me like one made in your image and growing toward your likeness. Help me to believe in me like you believe in yourself."

The final poem in the book lists some of the different things in the world that are blue—the ocean, the blue jay, the blue crab, eyes, the mountain lake, the bluebonnet, the blue stone, mountain ridges, shadows—and closes with the thought—"I will take each as a reminder to grow, grow and grow beyond each shade of blue into that light where all colors are shot through and dissolved by His dazzling presence."—AWM

Lauderdale team builds in Honduras

Five Lauderdale associational churches were represented in the 14 person construction crew that recently traveled to Honduras to build a permanent church building for the Dry Creek Baptist Church, El Progreso. This project was approved by the Executive Board of the association in a meeting at State Boulevard Church on Nov. 28, 1983. Leon Young is director of missions.

Leon Adams, pastor of Oak Grove Church, was coordinator. The team went at the invitation of Stanley Stamps, Mississippian, and SBC missionary to Honduras.

The following persons were on the team: Leon Adams, pastor, Cecil and Ruth Adkins, Mabel McCall, and Jim Burton of Oak Grove; Paul Earley, pastor, and Edwin Butts of Eighth Avenue Church; Mike Anderson and Bob Atkinson of Goodwater Church; Raymond Culpepper, August Miller, and Steve Tucker of Pine Grove Church; and Terry and Delphi Cross of State Boulevard Church.

Revival Dates

Eastview Church, Laurel: May 17-20; Gene Erwin, pastor, Harrisville Church, preaching; John R. Woodham, minister of music and youth, Eastview, leading the music; services at 10:00 a.m. and 7 p.m. on 17-18; at 7 p.m. on the 19th; 11 a.m. on the 20th; special music each service; Robert Scott, pastor.

New Hope Church, Amory: June 24-29; evangelist and music director to be Jerry Swimmer, "popular Jewish evangelist from Iuka"; Wade Cook, pastor.

Maybank Church, Hattiesburg: May 20-25; Sunday at 9:50 a.m.; weeknights at 7 p.m.; speakers all laymen: Rex Braswell, Fred Windham, Charles Pickering, Alvin Kimes, E. C. Mann, and Russell Bush; Van Windham is pastor.

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Just for the Record



GIRLS IN ACTION OF FIRST CHURCH, KOSCIUSKO, were honored in a recognition service April 25. They were given Mission Adventure badges for accomplishments of the year. Those recognized were (first row, l to r) Melanie Burnham, Jackie Frost, Kimberly Wiggers, Amanda Williams, Carrie Bryant, Amy Crowe, Angela Price, (second row) Molly Simpson, Lisa Vanderford, Rachel Ballard, Kathy Montgomery, Ginny Eaton, Cassandra Rutledge, Shonna Harvey, Amanda Weaver, Brandi Hensen, Amy Loftin, (third row) Sandra Goodson, Tamara Simpson, Susan West, Amanda Price, Christie Autry, Julie Burnham, Renee Dorrell, Elizabeth Weaver, and Amy Bland.

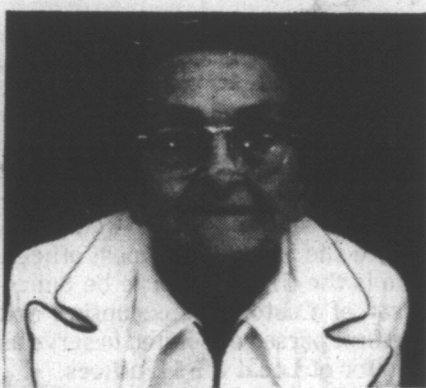
Pocahontas Church, Kickapoo Road, Jackson, will present Rendy Lovelady in a concert of religious music on May 20 at 7 p.m. The occasion will mark the conclusion of Lovelady's two years of service at Pocahontas as minister of music.



Lovelady will be graduated from Mississippi College on May 19. He plans to enter New Orleans Seminary in the fall. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lovelady of New Orleans, La.

Yale Street Church, Cleveland, will celebrate its 30th anniversary this year, beginning Sunday, July 8, and continuing through Wednesday, July 11, according to Glenda Bruce, 706 Avery, Cleveland, member of the Anniversary Committee.

Jayess Church (Lawrence) will have Vacation Bible School May 21-25 from 8:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m., for children, ages 3 to 11. The Youth Vacation Bible School will be held May 21-25 from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m., for ages 12 to 18. A pre-registration day will be held on Saturday, May 19, from 10 a.m. until noon and will feature a car parade inviting children to the Bible school. Abby Cothorn is the VBS director. Gilbert Allan is the pastor.



SPRINGFIELD CHURCH, MORTON, had a special lunch April 20 in recognition of several birthdays in April. Mrs. Mary Todd, Mrs. Cliff Miles, and Mrs. Climmie Goodman. The group of around 40 sang "Happy Birthday." A special tribute was given in honor of Mrs. Mary Todd (pictured), age 96, oldest member of Springfield Church, and the group presented to her a money tree. A former pastor, James Watts, gave the devotional. Coley Arinder sang "Will There Be Any Stars in my Crown?" and prayer was led by Elton Moore. Lunch was served.

Calvary Church, Columbus (Lowndes) recently held its spring revival. Bryan Harris, minister of youth at First Church, Columbus, was guest evangelist. Joe Pate, minister of music at Artesia Church, led the music. The Baptist Student Union Ensemble from Mississippi University for Women, performed in a mini-concert. Several events, included a youth-young adult breakfast and a youth fellowship, were led by the revival team and Ricky Crowder, Calvary's Brotherhood director. Roy Hawkins is pastor.

Paul N. Nunnery, Jackson, executive director, Baptist Children's Village, has been elected as president of the National Association of Homes for Children.

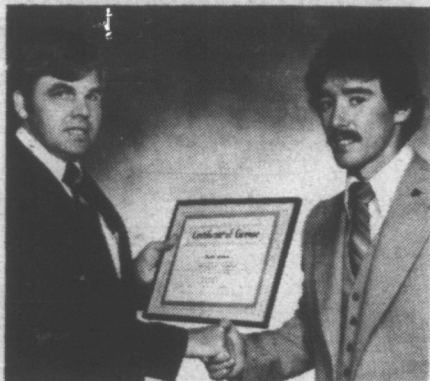
Names in the News

Thursday, May 17, 1984

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 11



HARMONTOWN CHURCH near Como recently elected and ordained four new deacons and ordained them. They are, left to right: FRANK COLLIER, BOB BIGGERT, TOM WRIGHT, and JIM SIMMERMAN. J. Don Stanfill is the pastor.



DALLAS (BP)—Texas Supreme Court Justice Charles W. Barrow, 62, has been named dean-elect of the Baylor University School of Law, Waco, Texas.

He will become dean Oct. 1, succeeding Angus S. McSwain Jr. who is resigning effective Sept. 30 after 19 years as dean to devote full-time attention to teaching law at the school.

SOCIETY HILL CHURCH, Jeff Davis County, licensed MARTY ROMERO on Mar. 25 to the gospel ministry. Romero is a native of Louisiana, born in New Iberia. He has completed training in Evangelism Explosion. He is presently continuing his educational preparation, states Ray Henry, Society Hill pastor. Romero is available for supply, special services, or for revival services. He is co-chairman of the Task Force for drug prevention in Marion County. "If you desire Marty to speak in your church, call 736-0846," said Henry.

MONTGOMERY, Ala. (BP)—Louise Green Potts, 64, wife of A. Earl Potts, executive secretary-treasurer of the Alabama Baptist State Convention, died May 5 at Baptist Medical Center, Montgomery, Ala., after an extended illness.

She became the first woman Baptist Student Union director at Alabama Polytechnic Institute in 1944, and also served as BSU director at Appalachian College, Boone, N.C.

She became Mission Friends director for Alabama Baptist Woman's Missionary Union in March, 1971, and retired in August, 1983.

B. R. "Dick" Albritton, 89, of Clinton, died May 6. The funeral was held May 8 at First Church, Clinton. Albritton, born at Gillsburg in Amite County, moved to Jackson at an early age. He served in the Army during World War I and was graduated from Mississippi College in 1921. During the 1920s, he was cashier in the Bank of Clinton before becoming bursar of Mississippi College in 1932. He served in this position for 14 years before joining Gandy Insurance Co. in Jackson, where he retired. He had been a member of First Baptist Church, Clinton, for over 50 years and was a deacon. He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Martha Burson Albritton, Clinton; son, Dick Albritton Jr. of Huntsville, Ala.; one sister; and three grandchildren.



TROY EZELL JR., 16, was recently licensed to the gospel ministry by Easthaven Church, Brookhaven. He was presented a Bible and a certificate of license. He is pictured with David Perry (left), pastor, and Gary Carter (right), assistant pastor and minister of youth.

Devotional The harvest is past

By Rex Yancey, pastor, First, Quitman

The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved. (Jer. 8:20). In the early 70's I was invited back to the first church I ever pastored to preach a short revival meeting. It began on Sunday and continued through Wednesday night.



Yancey

On Sunday afternoon the pastor and I visited a prospect and shared Christ with him. During the conversation, the man assured me that he was lost and needed to be saved. However, he said, "There is just something missing and I am not ready to be saved, yet."

I encouraged this man to attend every single revival service, and he promised me that he would. On Sunday night, sure enough, he was present. We had a good service with about fifty or sixty people attending, but no outward response. On Monday night, we experienced a good service, but with no outward response. On Tuesday night, we had one young person saved, but at least ten other people requested prayer for their spiritual well being.

As I left the church that night to drive back to my home, I said a prayer. "Lord, unless I have your message, I won't come back tomorrow night." I immediately thought of the scripture, "The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved."

The next night, about the same number of people attended. I shared how I knew that I had the text God wanted me to preach; I preached, and then gave the invitation. My two brothers-in-law came forward and sat down beside me and were saved. The man whom we had visited came forward and made his profession of faith, as well as others.

I asked this man if he felt certain that he was saved. He assured me that he was and wanted to give his testimony. He shared with the people how we had visited him. He said, "Last night I went home under deep conviction. Before I went to bed, I reached and got my Bible and it opened on this scripture, 'The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.'"

To me, this proved that God had been working on both ends. He worked on me and on this man who needed to be saved. Dear friend, do not grow weary in your prayer life. God is still at work in his world answering the prayers of his people.

Staff Changes

Jody Light is serving as pastor of Wanilla Church, Lawrence County. He went there from Hathorn Church in Jeff Davis County.

Chris Elkins, minister of education of First Church, Glendale, in Hattiesburg, has resigned effective May 13. He has accepted the position of minister to singles at First Church, Little Rock, Ark. Elkins is the author of two books: *Heavenly Deception* (adapted by Evangelical Films into a movie) and *What Do You Say To A Moonie?*. He has spoken widely around the country on his experiences with Sun Myung Moon's Unification Church in the middle 70s. From 1977 to 1980 he served with the Baptist Home Mission Board's Department of Interfaith Witness. Elkins married a Mississippian, Mini Ekes, in 1978 and they have resided in Hattiesburg since that time. Mrs. Elkins has for several years been the religion editor of *The Hattiesburg American* and has in recent months served as the newspaper's Weekend Editor.

James Woods became pastor at First Church, Horn Lake, on May 6. He moved from Towering Oaks Church, Memphis.

Aaron Benny Bell will serve as pastor of Highland Church, Northwest Association, beginning June 1. He is moving from Texas.

Dean Shields has resigned as pastor of Meadow Brook Church, Northwest Association, where he served for three years. Also he was president of the associational pastors' conference. He is moving to a mission church pastorate in Nebraska.

Ed McDaniel has resigned as pastor of First Church, Greenwood, and has accepted the pastorate of First Church, Richland.

First Church, Tupelo, has called Bart Latner as minister of education. He has been serving as minister of education at First Church, Collierville, Tenn.

Robert Kirkland has resigned as pastor of Cedar Grove Church, Greene County, to become pastor of a church in Alabama.

W. H. Parker has been called as pastor of Wilkinson Memorial Church, near Mize in Smith County. He is from Raleigh. He began his new duties May 6.

Roger Phillips of Mobile will enter the ministry of fulltime evangelism June 1. Phillips has been minister of music and youth at First Baptist of Dawes, Mobile, since November 1981. Previous church positions were at First, Gautier, Immanuel, Hattiesburg, and Hollinger's Island, Mobile. Phillips is available for revivals, retreats, conferences (singing or preaching), and for supply, concerts, etc. For information, contact Evangelist Roger Phillips, 3019 Cottage Grove Dr., Mobile, Ala., 36609. Phone (205) 633-7130.



Phillips



LOUISVILLE, Ky.—NANCY B. WARD, left, Vicksburg, has been named the recipient of the J. E. Lambdin Scholarship at Southern Seminary. The scholarship is awarded each year to a Christian education student whose vocational objective is educational ministry with Southern Baptist agencies, institutions and/or local churches. Ward was honored for her leadership capability and competency in educational ministry and her excellence in scholarship. She will be a May graduate with a Master in Religious Education. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Ward of Vicksburg, and is a 1981 graduate of Mississippi University for Women. William Rogers, dean of the School of Christian Education, made the presentation.

LOUISVILLE, Ky.—Carl Duane McDaniel is one of three students at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary to receive the 1984 Clyde T. Francisco Preaching Award. McDaniel preached during a recent chapel service on the seminary campus, on "The Power of The Gospel." A theology major, he is a 1981 graduate of Louisiana State University. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl McDaniel of Magnolia, Miss. The preaching awards are given to honor outstanding sermons by Southern Seminary students. The award is in memory of Clyde T. Francisco, who died in 1981.

Ordination services were held for Homer Ramage on April 8 at First Church, Columbus. William E. Hardy Jr., minister of education / administration, presented the charge to the church. W. Wilson Henderson, minister of music, presented the charge to the candidate.



Ramage

Joe McKeever, pastor, preached the message. Ramage has accepted the pastorate of Deerbrook Church, Noxubee Association, Brooksville.

Missionary News

FUKUOKA, Japan—Charles Whaley, veteran Southern Baptist missionary from Georgia, began work as president of Seinan Gakuin University in southern Japan April 1. Whaley, 61, called his election to the post "the shock of the century." A teacher and administrator at the university's seminary, he had intended to retire in a few years with his wife, Lois, after more than three decades in Japan. "There was absolutely no preparation since the election (March 12) was by secret ballot of professors and trustees," Whaley said. The missionary succeeds retiring Toraji Murakami as president of the Baptist institution, which has a staff of about 1,000. Some 10,000 students attend the school's coeducational college, seminary and boys' secondary schools.

Bob and Dolores Magee, missionaries since 1970, resigned from missionary service April 30. They served in Chile and Colombia, where he was a music promoter and she was a church and home worker. He is a native of Tylertown, Miss., and she is the former Dolores Bradley of Gulfport. They may be addressed at 500 N. 37th Ave., Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401.

Michael and Katherine Chute, missionaries to Brazil, are the parents of Kristen Leigh-Anne, born Feb. 4. They may be addressed at Caixa Postal 1635, 13100 Campinas, SP, Brazil. He was born in Beardstown, Ill. She is the former Katherine Benge of Brookhaven, Miss.

The believer's family

By Gerald Buckley, pastor, Parkway, Natchez
Matthew 13:54-57; Matthew 12:46-50

All of us know the meaning of the word family. Father, mother, and children make up the basic family unit. Beyond that we have relatives of all sorts.

If we are followers of Jesus Christ, we also have another family. Throughout its history the community of faith has been family to believers in the Lord Jesus. This family of God has rendered great service to multitudes of Christian pilgrims. Using Jesus as a model, let's study about and celebrate the believer's family.

I. Don't limit your family (Matthew 13:54-57)

This is a sad, but revealing, episode in the life of Jesus. He had been preaching and ministering with remarkable success throughout the area of Galilee. Crowds came to hear him, to feel his power, and to experience healing of mind and body.

Then Jesus decided to go back home for a short visit to share with his childhood relatives and friends the message the Father had given him. Jesus must have been excited as he drew near his home town. It is a warm feeling to go back home. Jesus saw so many familiar sights as he entered Nazareth. Many memories must have flooded his mind.

He began to teach the people in their synagogue. As he spoke, a murmuring arose. He encountered hostility from the people of his home town. They would not listen to him because they knew his father and his mother and his brothers and his sisters. They could not conceive that anyone who had lived among them and whom they had known had any right to speak as Jesus was speaking. The prophet, as so often happens, had no honor in his own country. Their attitude raised a barrier which made it impossible for Jesus to have any effect upon them.

"And they were offended in him." Here was the unique Son of God in their very midst and all they could do was be offended. Many great things could have happened in that service had they had a different attitude. There is a strong lesson here. The spirit of the congregation is crucial to worship. If the congregation is hard and hostile, this is a barrier through which the preacher's words cannot penetrate. If the congregation is warm and receptive, even the poorest sermon will provide a blessing.

Far too often, familiarity can cause blindness and deafness. Surely, those people in the synagogue would have been angered had an outsider remarked that not anything good could come out of Nazareth. Yet, their very words and actions were an implicit endorsement of that old saying. These people refused to recognize Jesus' unique authority and divine identity because they could name the members of the household in which he lived as a child. They could remember the work he did as a young man. Jesus was one of them. They assumed, therefore, that he could not be special in any sense.

II. Jesus' true family (Matthew 12:46-50)

As Jesus was busy teaching the crowd, his family appeared. Someone brought word to Jesus that his mother and brothers were outside wanting to speak to him. This provided the occasion for Jesus to teach a lesson about an even closer relationship to him than that of human family ties.

Jesus responded in a strange way to the message that his relatives were outside waiting to see him. He motioned toward his disciples and said that they were his mother and

brothers. Jesus then added—"whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

What was Jesus saying? Let's first of all say what he was not saying. He was not establishing a principle of ignoring one's blood family. Family was important to him. Deep love existed between Jesus and his family. He would never advocate, or raise to the level of principle, a disregard for family. We have already seen in a recent study how hard he was on people who tried to get out of their responsibility to aged parents by the Corban trick. He was not attempting to be unduly hard on families. He was saying, however, that family must not stand in the way of doing the will of God.

Every pastor has known people who avoided responsibilities by hiding behind their families. A woman said to me recently, "The reason I do not go to church is because my husband will not go with me." Most churches have those who say, "We cannot give much, if anything, to the church because our family expenses are so great." Jesus would be quite hard on such lame and feeble excuses. I have known adults who said, "My parents made me go to church when I was young, so I am not going now." That's hiding behind the family. Our Lord did not do that. Neither can we.

Those who do God's will comprise the true family of Jesus. One has but to travel throughout the earth to see this truth of God's family. For Christians, regardless of racial, language, social, economic, or political differences, find "the tie that binds our hearts in Christian love, the fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above."

stand in opposition to God. Although James saw those who desire friendship with the world as enemies of God, he would remind them that God still loves them and that his grace is extended to those who will humble themselves and turn to him.

There is no place for fatalism in the life of the Christian, for our sovereign God has granted us freedom in the running of our lives. On the other hand, he has not left us without help and guidance. When we draw nigh to him, he is always there to supply the strength and blessings we need. Likewise, we are promised that active resistance to the devil will free us from his power. Such reminds us that conversion is two-phased, a turning from evil and a turning to God. We who have been forgiven and given a new nature in Christ Jesus by his sacrifice on the Cross can develop the right attitude toward sin and impurity in our hearts and manifest them in our actions. The selfish desire for pleasure must be replaced by genuine repentance and sorrow for our sins. Such humility and submission to God on our part will result in his intervention in our lives and true joy.

Pride in the individual (4:13-17). Those of us who are older can re-

Israel's moral decay

By Bill Causey, pastor, Parkway, Jackson
Hosea 4:1-7:2

The enormous pain of Hosea's marriage causes him to comprehend with intensity and sensitivity how the offended heart of God must feel.

I. God's case against Israel 4:1-3

The language is courtroom language as Hosea presents God's case against them. The indictment lists lost personal qualities (1) enlarging into social disasters (2) resulting in a non-productive society (3).

II. The priests are charged 4:4-10

There is no point in arguing (4a) or to contend with a (true) priest (4b). But these priests are not true and so their stumbling will destroy their mother (Israel). It is the priests' fault that the people have no knowledge of God. Since the priests forget God, God will forget their children—there will be no blessing for the future (6). This turning from God by the priests caused it among the people and created within them an insatiable lust for evil (7-10). How frightening when religious leaders abandon their responsibility to be true!

III. The people are charged 4:11-19

Their "brains" (11) are gone. They now consult stumps and sticks and play the harlot with false gods by departing from the true God (12-13). This includes the act of adultery in the house of Baal so God will give them "equal rights": the women and the men are equally guilty (14). He hopes that Judah will not become guilty of these same sins or falsely swear by the Lord's name (15). The Lord tried to lead them into choice fields, but, like a stubborn sheep, Israel (Ephraim) wouldn't go because of being joined to idols (16-17). They drink, seek prostitutes, their leaders love shame (18). They will be blown away as in the wind and then they will be ashamed (19).

IV. Guilty of unfaithfulness is the verdict 5:1-7

They are guilty and the evidence is

presented. Idolatry at Mizpah and Tabor (1). God sees their depravity and defilement (2-3), so that sin has ensnared them (4). They are arrogant (5). They will find it too late (6) to seek the Lord for by the new moon they will be devoured (7). Sound the alarm (8) for judgment has come (11) and they are found as obviously guilty as one who moves a boundary line (10). God will be as a moth to cloth (12a), like a rat to wood (12b), like a lion to destroy (14). Even when they knew their weakness they turned to Assyria instead of God so God will withdraw from them until they "earnestly" seek him (15).

Phony repentance and presuming on God is supposed in 6:1-3 as if God is not smart. Their character is as flighty as fog or dew (4) and God's judgment (light) will sweep both away (5). God wants loyalty and a knowledge of him, not mere ritual and religious form (6). As Gomer betrayed Hosea, so they deal treacherously against God (7) they do wrong, they make bloody footprints, priests are like packs of robbers (8-9). The verdict is: Israel like Gomer is a harlot! God wanted love but instead must punish (10). Judah will get the same (11). God wanted to forgive (acquit) Israel but the charges are too great and are proven 7:1.

V. Something they need to know about the Judge (7:2)

They have forgotten to consider the greatness of God and this is what has gotten them (and how many others) in trouble. God knows sin when he sees it. He remembers all their wickedness. Their wickedness completely surrounds them. He sees everything they do. They are guilty!

How many today attempt to trade on the love and mercy of a righteous God as if he does not see sin! How foolish—and how certain is the judgment that is coming!

Son: "Dad, the bill collector's here."

Father: "Fine, give him the pile on the table."

Uniform

Be responsible to God

By Robert Earl Shirley, pastor, Parkway, Tupelo
James 4:1-10, 13-17

The scripture passages for our lesson today deals with two problems that seem to be totally unrelated. The first is concerned with unrest among Christians and the second with pride. Perhaps the unifying element in the chapter is that both are displeasing to God and that the cure for both is surrender to his will.

Strife in the church (4:1-10). Although we do not know the actual situation in the church to which James was writing, it was obviously one of strife and confusion. Likewise, it is apparent that this turmoil was the result of their lustful desire to have that which they should not have. In spite of their compromising and unrighteous efforts, they were not finding what they were seeking. The writer suggests that they were failing because their methods were wrong and that they could have gained their goals only by looking to God.

They had not because they were not asking for their needs. Their concept of prayer seems to have been totally faulty. When they did pray, they asked outside of the will of God desiring only that which they could use to satisfy selfish and ungodly pleasures. The nature of God, his divine wisdom, and his love for us will not allow him to answer such prayers affirmatively. The word, "adulteresses" as used in this letter is used descriptively of those who were unfaithful to God.

Such a use here and in other places in God's Word emphasizes the seriousness of putting God in a secondary position in our lives. One must decide what, or who, is going to be given first place. We cannot give allegiance to God and the present evil world at the same time. The world spoken of here is not the material creation but the realm of ideas and philosophies that

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